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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,991	04/25/2000	Susie J. Wee	10992724	8759

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IP Administration  
Legal Department 20BN  
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EXAMINER

AN, SHAWN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/557,991

Applicant(s)  
Susie Wee et al.

Examiner  
Shawn An

Art Unit  
2613



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Apr 25, 2000 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailleul (6,181,743) in view of Takahashi (6,295,380 B1).

**Regarding claim 1,** Bailleul discloses a method of editing a sequence of image frames, and utilizing an image sequence processing system, comprising:

receiving the compressed data of coded region (Fig. 5, input to VLD);  
decompressing the coded region for at least two frames (Fig. 5, IQ, IDCT);  
using the image processing system to edit the image data which has been decompressed  
(54), thereby altering that image data;  
recompressing edited data that is compatible with the compressed input data (VLC); and  
mixing the recompressed edited data with the compressed input data and generating  
therefrom an output signal (VLC out);

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Bailleul does not particularly disclose identifying location within the compressed data of an independently code region and the information identifying location within each one of the at least two frames, and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame.

However, Takahashi teaches identifying location within the compressed data of an independently code region and the information identifying location within each one of the at least two frames (Fig. 13), and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame (abs.; col. 1, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing a method of editing a sequence of image frames as taught by Bailleul to incorporate the concept of an independent object coding, and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame as taught by Takahashi (secondary) so as to reduce amount of time for decoding an entire image, thereby avoiding extensive computational resources in editing.

**Regarding claim 2**, Bailleul discloses quantizing circuit (Q) and variable length coded, and decompressing including at least motion vector and residual format (col. 3, lines 35-49). Further, Huffman coding is well known in the art.

**Regarding claim 3**, Takahashi (main) discloses decompressing to the spatial domain (VLD, IQ, IDCT).

**Regarding claims 4 and 5**, Takahashi (main) discloses editing the data before the spatial/DCT domain (Fig. 5). Therefore, it would have been quite obvious to relocate the editing the data in the spatial/DCT domain just as long as the results and efficiency of editing are substantially the same.

**Regarding claim 6**, a color correction on image data as part of editing process is well known and conventional in the art.

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**Regarding claims 7-8 and 10**, Bailleul discloses editing including substituting different image data including inserting logo for original image data into the coded region (Fig. 5, Logo(n)). Based on above teaching, it would have been quite obvious for substituting a second image or sequence of images for original image data as an editor's preference.

**Regarding claim 9**, a scaling, cropping, on image data as part of editing process is well known and conventional in the art.

4. Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (5,912,709) in view of Takahashi (6,295,380 B1).

**Regarding claim 1**, Takahashi discloses a method of editing a sequence of image frames, and utilizing an image sequence processing system, comprising:

receiving the compressed data of coded region (Fig. 8, input to 11);  
decompressing the coded region for at least two frames (1);  
using the image processing system to edit the image data which has been decompressed (4+), thereby altering that image data;  
recompressing edited data that is compatible with the compressed input data (2); and  
mixing the recompressed edited data with the compressed input data and generating therefrom an output signal (23);

Takahashi does not particularly disclose identifying location within the compressed data of an independently code region and the information identifying location within each one of the at least two frames, and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame.

However, Takahashi teaches identifying location within the compressed data of an independently code region and the information identifying location within each one of the at least two frames (Fig. 13), and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame (abs.; col. 1, lines 34-38).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing a method of editing a sequence of image frames as taught by Takahashi (main) to incorporate the concept of an independent object coding, and affecting edited data of part of at least one image frame while not decompressing other image data for the frame as taught by Takahashi (secondary) so as to reduce amount of time for decoding an entire image, thereby avoiding extensive computational resources in editing.

**Regarding claim 2**, Takahashi (main) discloses quantizing circuit (Fig. 8, 22) and variable length coded, and decompressing including at least motion vector and residual format (Fig. 8, 15). Further, Huffman coding is well known in the art.

**Regarding claim 3**, Takahashi (main) discloses decompressing to the spatial domain (Fig. 8, 11-13).

**Regarding claims 4 and 5**, Takahashi (main) discloses editing the data before the spatial/DCT domain (Fig. 8, 4+). Therefore, it would have been quite obvious to relocate the editing the data in the spatial/DCT domain just as long as the results and efficiency of editing are substantially the same.

**Regarding claim 6**, a color correction on image data as part of editing process is well known and conventional in the art.

**Regarding claim 9**, a scaling, cropping, on image data as part of editing process is well known and conventional in the art.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

A) Balakrishnan et al (5,982,436), Method for seamless splicing in a video encoder.

B) Hasebe et al (6,483,875 B1), Picture signal processing apparatus.

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6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn An whose telephone number (703) 305-0099 and schedule are Tuesday through Friday.

SHAWN S. AN  
PATENT EXAMINER



SSA

November 21, 2002